

## GOLF SECTION

The golf season peaked in March and the RAHGC calendar has been completely full. First of all we were treated to a Golf spectacle with the Oman Open, where some of the world's best players visited Al Mouj as part of the European Tour event. Our Club Professional managed to qualify as part of the local professional playoff, so the competition had even more interest for RAHGC members. Well done Kieren Pratt, we are very proud of you at RAHGC. The following week we held the 46<sup>th</sup> Muscat Open, and then this was shortly followed by Club Championship, as well as the normal monthly competitions such as the monthly medal and Stableford. The below summarizes the main events

### Muscat Open

The 2019 Muscat Open Golf Championship was played at Ras Al Hamra Golf Club on the 8th and 9th of March. The competition featured sixty of Oman's best golfers and more than twenty players visiting from abroad, all eager to perform their level best in the 46th edition of Oman's longest running Open golf championship. As in previous years' the Ras Al Hamra golf course was in fantastic condition, but the fast greens and difficult pin positions gave every competitor a real challenge over the two days. The main competition turned out to be a contest between six former winners. However, already at an early stage it was clear that one player stood out from the rest. The 2016 Muscat Open Champion, Yaseen Le Falher from Royal Bahrain Golf Club, was simply competing on a different level, and comfortably won the 2019 Championship trophy with a gross score of 144; 11 shots ahead of the nearest competitor. He said, "I always enjoy coming back to Oman and compete in the Muscat Open. As always, it was an impeccably organized tournament with superb course conditions. I'm very happy to win the Championship trophy for the second time, and would love to come back and defend the title next year."

Despite the clear winner, the contest for second place was very fierce, with five players within one shot of each other. After two days of exciting golf, with the battle for second changing on several occasions, Jeff Campbell from Ghala Golf Club secured second place ahead of Bahrain Golf Club's, Nasser Yacoob in third, both with a score of 155, followed by Ed Edwards from Abu Dhabi Golf Club and the only lady player in the field, Lynn Casey from Al Mouj Golf Club, both one shot behind in fourth and fifth position, respectively.

The Nett Prize category turned out to be a competition between players from the "home club" Ras Al Hamra Golf Club. The overnight leader and youngest player in the field, 15-year old Max Coventry, held on to first place with a net score of 140, despite an impressive second day round from Jas Dhanju, which landed him second place with a net score of 141.

At the prize giving ceremony held at the RAH Recreation Club the Muscat Open President, Gary Battersby, thanked the players, the organizing committee and all the volunteers for having made the 46th edition of the Muscat Open another successful event. He continued, "I would also like to express our gratitude to the 2019 Muscat Open sponsors, RSS - Rental Solutions & Services, Muscat Bay, GAC, Asha Enterprises, Troon, A&E and PBS. Without their generous support, we would not have been able to organize this historic event." The many prizes were then presented to all the winners, before the wonderful evening was concluded with a buffet dinner and raffle draw.

**46th Muscat Open Gross winner Yaseen Le Falher**



**46th Muscat Open Nett winner Max Coventry**



### RAHGC Club Championships

What a Championship weekend we had, there was the Coventry Family Feud duel on Day 2, the old guard chasing the new generation in the nett division and the return of a former champ to her throne. We had a great turnout with a field of 52 golfers. After the scores were counted on Day 1, Max Coventry (Muscat Open Nett Winner) was tied with Stewart Thomson for the lead with a score of 80. A nervous father Steve Coventry was one stroke back. It was junior golfer Darsh Pawani and wily veteran Alex Borges who were tied with a nett 65 after Friday. Day 2 saw the return of Rahul Singh who shot the tournaments best gross score of 78. Andy Hiscock was the day's best nett winner with a 67. Darsh Pawani played a sublime game on Day 2 to win the Nett Prize by 4 strokes over Alex Borges. Steve Coventry battled back from being one stroke behind to shot a gross 79 and win the 2019 RAHGC Club Championship. Steve who has placed second in his 3 previous Club Champs was finally rewarded for his stellar play. Jameela Daud returned to claim her seventh Club Championship making it back to back titles. Beatrice Muthigani won the Ladies Nett with a score of 144. Krish Pawani won the Junior Nett. Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to everyone who played.

### Club Championship Winners



Men and Ladies Club Champions



Our Club Professional Kieren Pratt in action at The Oman Open

